

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A color imaging system providing on-the-fly color interpolation using analog signals to reconstruct colors during sensor readout, the imaging system comprising:

an array of pixel sensor elements wherein at least part of the array is arranged in rows and columns:

a color filter including a plurality of color filter components organized in a predefined pattern, the color filter overlaying at least a portion of the array;

a readout control circuit coupled to the array wherein the readout control circuit is configured to simultaneously read out values for a group of pixel elements within a first portion of the array, including at least two pixel elements from two different rows and two pixel elements from two different columns and to reconstruct color components for at least a first pixel sensor element and a second pixel sensor element using color information from other pixels elements within at least the first portion of the array while the readout control circuit is reading said first portion of the array and wherein said readout control circuit enables sub-sampling said array by skipping pixel elements along horizontal or vertical directions of said array; and

a plurality of color amplifiers for generating a buffered color video signal from said readout pixel elements each corresponding to one of said color filter components wherein each said color amplifier has a programmable gain, said programmable gain is used to provide on-the-fly color interpolation, and wherein said color amplifiers are contained within said array of pixel sensors.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of Claim 1, wherein the readout control circuit is adapted to perform color interpolation using two pixel sensor elements read out in parallel.

4.-37. (CANCELLED)

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A color imager comprising:

a first light sensor which generates a first analog output signal related to the amount of a first color of light sensed;

a second light sensor which generates a second output signal related to the amount of a first color of light sensed;

a third light sensor which generates a third analog output signal related to the amount of a second color of light sensed;

a fourth light sensor which generates a fourth analog output signal related to the amount of a third color of light sensed;

a circuit configured to read out the first, second, third, and fourth analog values at the same time wherein said circuit enables sub-sampling said array by skipping said light sensors along horizontal or vertical directions of said color imager;

an interpolation circuit configured to receive said first output signal and said second output signal, wherein said interpolation circuit provides ~~and~~ an interpolation signal on the fly based on at least said first analog output signal and said second analog output signal;

a summing amplifier to sum two or more said analog values; and

a plurality of color amplifiers for generating a buffered color video signal from said light sensors each corresponding to one of said colors of light wherein each said color amplifier has a programmable gain, said programmable gain is used to provide on-the-fly color interpolation, and wherein said color amplifiers are contained within said array of pixel sensors.

39.-42. (CANCELLED)

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to Claim 1 wherein said array of pixel sensor elements comprise CMOS sensors.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to Claim 1 wherein said predefined pattern of color filter components comprises a Bayer pattern.

45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to Claim 1 wherein said readout control circuit is programmed to selectively skip some of said groups of pixel elements to create a lower resolution of said color reconstruction.

46. (CANCELLED)

47. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The imager according to Claim 38 wherein said light sensors comprise CMOS sensors.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The imager according to Claim 38 wherein said first, second, third, and fourth light sensors are arranged in a Bayer pattern.